GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4955
ANSWERED ON:24.04.2002
NATIONAL AIDS AND BLOOD POLICY
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have approved National Policy for Prevention and Control of AIDS and the National Blood Policy for safe use of blood;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy;

(c) the extent to which this new policy is likely to curb AIDS; and

(d) the guidelines formulated by the Government for effective implementation of AIDS control programme by the States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The salient features of National Policy for prevention and control of HIV/AIDS and the National Blood Policy are as under:-

i) To reaffirm Government`s commitment for prevention and control of HIV infection and reduce its social impact.

ii) To generate a feeling of ownership among all the participants, both in the Government and civil society, by treating it as a developmental issue and not merely as a public health programme.

iii) To promote an enabling social environment for prevention of HIV/AIDS and for providing care and support to people living with HIV/AIDS by protecting their human rights including right to access health care system, right to education, employment and privacy.

iv) To enlarge community mobilization by enlisting support of a large number of NGOs and community-based Organisations.

v) To prevent women, children and other socially vulnerable groups from becoming infected by HIA/AIDS by improving health education, legal status and economic prospects.

vi) To promote better understanding of HIV infection among young people, especially students, by educational programmes aimed at adopting safe behavioural practices.

vii) To bring in horizontal integration with other national programmes like Reproductive and Child Health, TB Control, Integrated Child Development and primary health care system.

viii) To ensure availability of adequate and safe blood and blood products for the general population through promotion of voluntary blood donation and rational use of blood.

(c): The general objective of the policy is to prevent the epidemic from spreading further and to reduce the impact of the epidemic not only upon the infected persons but upon the health and socio-economic status of the general population at all levels. The policy envisages effective containment of the infection level of HIV/AIDS in the general population in order to achieve zero level ofnew infections by 2007.

(d): Comprehensive guidelines have been issued to all States/UTs for the effective implementation of the National AIDS Control programme on the basis of which each State/UTs prepare their state specific action plan every year.